

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 230631

NODIS

FOR Z. BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 4727 ACTION SECSTATE TEL AVIV
DAMASCUS SEP 25

QUOTE S E C R E T BEIRUT 4727

EXDIS TREAT AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR MILI MOPS LE IS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE IN SOUTH LEBANON

1. LANE AND I MET WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS, PRIMIN HOSS AND FONMIN
BOUTROS AT 1200 LOCAL AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. THEY HAVE BEEN IN
TOUCH WITH PLO THROUGHOUT MORNING AND LATTER HAVE AGREED TO
CEASEFIRE STARTING TOMORROW MORNING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26.

2. TERMS AS UNDERSTOOD BY PLO ARE: CESSATION F ALL FIRING,
STANDSTILL OF FORCES ON GROUND, NO REINFORCEMENTS IN MEN OR
MATERIEL BY EITHER SIDE, NO ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL OR LEBANON.
PLO HAS ALREADY STARTED STEPS TO PUT CEASE FIRE INTO EFFECT.

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3. TIMING: BOURTROS SAID TIME AGREED UPON WAS 0600 REPEAT 0600.
WE SAID THAT IT POSSIBLE ISRAELIS WOULD PREFER LATER HOUR SINCE
THEY WANTED CONDUCT WITHDRAWAL IN DAYLIGHT. BOUROS SAID PLO HAD
ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED 1000, BUT LEBANESE HAD MADE THEM AGREE TO
EARLIER HOUR, THINKING THAT WOULD BE BETTER. COL. KHATIB OF
ARAB DETERRENT FOCES WAS THEN CALLED IN AND GOT IN TOUCH WITH

PLO BY TELEPHONE IN EFFORT GET HOUR CHANGED BACK TO 1000 AS
PLESTINIANS HAD WANTED. HE WAS TOLD THAT ABU JIHAD, WHO
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER, HAD ALREADY LEFT FOR SOUTH TO COORDINATE
CEASEFIRE FOR 0600. KHATIB THEN ASKED IF HOUR COULD BE CHANGED TO
1000. PERSON TO WHOM HE WAS SPEAKING, (ABU AL-WALID) SAID THERE NO
PROBLEM. LEBANESE THEREFORE OPERATING ON BASIS HOUR WILL BE
1000. ASSUMING THAT ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL. WE NEED CONFIRMATION,
HOWEVER, THAT HOUR AND TERMS ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAELIS.

4 BOUTROS THEN REFERRED TO PRESIDENT SARKIS'S REQUEST OF
YESTERDAY MORNING REPORTED IN OUR 4722 THAT FOLLOWING CEASE FIRE
SHTAURA ACCORD BE IMPLEMENTED. DID I HAVE ANY RESPONSE FROM
WASHINGTON IN THIS RESPECT? I SAID WE HAD RECEIVED NOTHING
SINCE THAT CONVERSATION BUT THERE HAD BEEN ITEM IN MY INSTRUCTIONS
I HAD OVERLOOKED THEN. I THEN READ PARA 3 OF STATE 230096
(THAT AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WOULD CONSTITUTE A SIGNIFICANT
ACHIEVEMENT AND THAT WE WOULD REGARD THIS AS THE FIRST STEP IN
IMPLEMENTATION OF SHTAURA AGREEMENT'S THIRD STATE. BOUTROS
SMILED AND LOOKED VERY PLEASED.

5. I THEN SAID LEBANESE SHOULD REALIZE THAT ISRAELIS WERE
INSISTING ON NEGOTIATIONS AS FIRST STEP IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
WITHDRAWAL AND THAT THEY EVIDENTLY PLANNED IN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS
TO TALK ABOUT CONTENTS OF SHTAURA AGREEMENT AS WELL AS MODALITIES
IF ITS IMPLEMENTATION. BOUTROS SAID HE REALIZED THIS. GOL WAS
PREPARED FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN ILMAC CONTEXT. THESE WOULD BE
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DISCUSSIONS OF MILITARY SUBJECTS, WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED
BROADLY, BUT NOT POLITICAL. HE DID NOT THINK WE SHOULD LET
THIS QUESTION BE OBSTACLE TO PROCEEDING WITH CEASE FIRE. HE
SEEMED VERY RELAXED ON ISSUE. CAT NOW BELLED.

6 PUBLICITY: BOUTROS ASKED IF ISRAELIS HAD GIVEN FIRM UNDER-
STAKING NOT TO ANNOUNCE CEASEFIRE. I SAID THEY HAD. HE THEN SAID
PRESS WAS BOUND TO FIND OUT THAT ONE HAD TAKEN PLACE AND HE
SUGGESTED THAT EITHER LEBANESE OR ISRAELIS, OR BOTH, COULD MAKE
STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS IF NECESSARY. QTE AS RESULT OF DIPLOMATIC
EFFORTS A CEASE FIRE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE SOUTH AND CALM HAS
RETURNED TO THE REGION. UNQUOTE. LEBANESE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE
NATURE AND DETAILS OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS REVEALED. ON OTHER HAND,
I AM MORALLY CERTAIN THEY THEMSELVES WILL ISSUE STATEMENT BOUTROS
PROPOSED. THEY RIGHTFULLY FEEL THEY SHOULD GET SOME CREDIT FOR
JOB WELL DONE.

7. IF CEASEFIRE GOES THROUGH, I THINK PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO
SARKIS EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR HIS SKILL IN HANDLING THIS
DELICATE PROBLEM IS VERY MUCH IN ORDER.

8. WE THEN GOT INTO DISCUSSION OF ROLE OF ILMAC AND ROLE IT

MIGHT PLAY IN OBSERVING IMPLEMENTATION OF CEASE FIRE. WE SUGGESTED
THEY SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH ILMAC CHAIRMAN, WHICH THEY AGREED
TO DO. 9 LANE AND I THEN LEFT TO SEND THIS TELEGRAM. HOPE TEL AVIV

CAN COMMUNICATE PLO AGREEMENT TO GOI IMMEDIATELY AND GIVE US
RAPID CONFIRMATION THAT ISRAELIS ON BOARD. I TOLD BOUTROS WE
HOPED HAVE RESPONSE BY 1700 OR 1800 LOCAM. PARKER.
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